

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE
BOROUGH OF BARNSTAPLE
FOR THE YEAR 1971

BOROUGH OF BARNSTAPLE

Telephone :
Barnstaple 72511,
Ext. 282.

Public Health Department,
Room 211,
Civic Centre,
BARNSTAPLE.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

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E. WILLIAMS,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

W. RODGERS,
M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen &
Councillors of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I wish to present the Annual Report on the health and statistics
of the Borough for the Year 1971.

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1972.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

YEAR 1971/72

<u>His Worship the Mayor</u>	:	Alderman G. Casey
<u>Chairman</u>	:	Alderman F. A. Dunning
<u>Aldermen</u>	:	Miss M. K. Howard
	:	W. H. Wilkey, M.B.E., J.P.
<u>Councillors</u>	:	J. Bartlett
	:	W. J. Bond
	:	R. G. Chugg
	:	A. C. Dibble
	:	L. H. Ellway
	:	Mrs. E. M. Fern
	:	D. A. Hurrell
	:	M. J. Isaac
	:	G. E. R. Ridd

S T A F F

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The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :-

Part-time Officer -

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

Whole-time Officers -

W. RODGERS, M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector

F. V. PYE, M.A.P.H.I.,
Additional Public Health Inspector

C. H. BALMENT, R.S.H. Certificate in Meat Inspection,
Authorised Meat Inspector

MISS J. BALMENT, R.S.H. Certificate in Meat Inspection,
Authorised Meat Inspector

MISS E. M. FENNELL Clerk

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH -

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	2,396
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)	...				17,590
" at 1961 Census	...	...	...	...	15,944
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 31.3.72)	...				5,808
Number of Corporation-owned Houses (as at 31.12.71)	...				1,706
Density of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	3.02

VITAL STATISTICS -

Area Comparability Factor - Births	...	...	...	1.05
" " " - Deaths	...	...	...	0.77

Live Births -

Number	...	...	...	...	324
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	18.4
" " " " adjusted by Comp. Factor					19.3

Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births 10%

Stillbirths -

Number	...	...	...	...	6
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	...	...			18

Total Live & Still Births ... 330

Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year) ... 3

Infant Mortality Rates -

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	...	9
Legit. " " " " Legit. " " ...		10
Illegit. " " " " Illegit. " " ...		Nil

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births) 6

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births) 3

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births) 21

Maternal Mortality (including Abortion) -

Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	...	...			Nil

Deaths -

Number	...	...	...	...	252
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	14.3
" " " " adjusted by Comp. Factor					11.0

POPULATION, AND BIRTHS & DEATHS TABLE FOR THE BOROUGH SINCE 1948 -

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u> <u>(Regist.Gen.Estimate)</u>	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1948	16,000	317	242
1949	15,940	287	227
1950	16,060	230	217
1951	<u>Census</u> 16,299	263	241
1952	16,130	266	198
1953	16,090	261	314
1954	16,080	246	227
1955	15,930	239	227
1956	15,790	233	220
1957	15,750	255	227
1958	15,660	244	223
1959	15,520	281	214
1960	15,550	261	233
1961	<u>Census</u> 15,944	280	284
1962	15,650	289	228
1963	15,890	324	235
1964	16,280	328	252
1965	16,330	295	269
1966	16,320	307	269
1967	16,340	323	194
1968	16,820	269	259
1969	16,850	285	219
1970	16,920	278	210
1971	17,590	324	252

BIRTHS -

During the year there were 324 live births, which was 46 more than occurred in 1970.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births -</u>			
Legitimate	139	153	292
Illegitimate	<u>20</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>32</u>
	<u>159</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>324</u>

There were no local home confinements during the year.

	<u>North Devon District Hospital</u> <u>(Maternity Unit)</u>	<u>At Home</u>
Local	311	-
Non-local	1,061	-

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	18.4
" " " " " (adjusted)	...	...	...	19.3
Birth Rate for England & Wales	...	...	...	16.0

The Birth Rate (adjusted) since 1948 is as follows :-

1948	...	19.8	1956	...	15.3	1964	...	21.1
1949	...	18.0	1957	...	16.7	1965	...	19.0
1950	...	14.3	1958	...	16.0	1966	...	19.6
1951	...	16.1	1959	...	18.6	1967	...	20.8
1952	...	16.3	1960	...	17.3	1968	...	16.8
1953	...	16.0	1961	...	18.6	1969	...	17.7
1954	...	16.0	1962	...	19.0	1970	...	17.2
1955	...	15.6	1963	...	21.4	1971	...	19.3

Still Births -

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate	1	-	1

DEATHS -

Total number of deaths of Borough residents during the year was 252, which was 42 more than the previous year.

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
103	149	252

Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	14.3
" " " " " (adjusted)	...	...	...	11.0
Death Rate for England & Wales	...	...	...	11.6

The Death Rate (adjusted) since 1950 is as follows :-

1950	...	10.8	1958	...	12.2	1966	...	7.9
1951	...	11.8	1959	...	11.3	1967	...	9.0
1952	...	9.6	1960	...	12.4	1968	...	12.3
1953	...	15.4	1961	...	15.3	1969	...	10.1
1954	...	11.4	1962	...	11.8	1970	...	9.5
1955	...	11.5	1963	...	12.4	1971	...	11.0
1956	...	12.2	1964	...	13.0			
1957	...	12.7	1965	...	12.8			

The following table shows the Causes of Death :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Whooping Cough	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Oesophagus ...	-	2	2
" " - Stomach	3	4	7
" " - Intestine	2	5	7
" " - Larynx	1	-	1
" " - Lung, Bronchus	14	2	16
" " - Breast	-	9	9
" " - Prostate	1	-	1
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	6	8	14
Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
Mental Disorders	-	1	1
Multiple Sclerosis	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System ...	3	2	5
Hypertensive Disease	3	3	6
Ischaemic Heart Disease	31	42	73
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	12	14
Cerebrovascular Disease	11	29	40
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	7	11
Pneumonia	4	9	13
Bronchitis & Emphysema	3	1	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	2	-	2
Appendicitis	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	3	2	5
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	-	2
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	-	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	-	1
Symptoms & Ill-defined Conditions ...	-	2	2
All Other Accidents	2	2	4
Suicide & Self-Inflicted Injuries ...	-	2	2
All Other External Causes	1	-	1
	<u>103</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>252</u>

Deaths occurred in the following age-groups :-

Under 1 year ... 3	45 - 54 years ... 11
1 - 4 years ... 1	55 - 64 " ... 36
5 - 14 " ... 2	65 - 74 " ... 65
15 - 24 " ... 2	75 - 84 " ... 80
25 - 34 " ... 2	85 - 94 " ... 46
35 - 44 " ... 2	95 + " ... 2

Infant Mortality Rate -

During the year, 3 infants died under the age of 1 year,
viz :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births ... 9.

Causes of Infant Deaths were as follows :-

Male : 14 hours : Pulmonary Atelectasis;
Prematurity;
Disseminated Intra-vascular Co-
agulation Syndrome.

Male 1 day : Hydrocephalus.

Female 5 weeks : Broncho-pneumonia;
Clinical Whooping Cough.

Neonatal Deaths -

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants
under the age of 4 weeks :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births ... 6 .

Maternal Mortality - Nil.

Cancer Deaths -

There were 59 deaths from Cancer during the year : 21 more
than in 1970.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Oesophagus	-	2	2
Stomach	3	4	7
Intestine	2	5	7
Larynx	1	-	1
Lungs, Bronchus	14	2	16
Breast	-	9	9
Prostate	1	-	1
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Other	6	8	14
	<u>28</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>59</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Deaths from Cancer of the Lung & Bronchus, since 1950 :-

<u>Year</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1950	...	3	-	3
1951	...	2	-	2
1952	...	2	-	2
1953	...	3	3	6
1954	...	5	1	6
1955	...	5	-	5
1956	...	8	-	8
1957	...	6	1	7
1958	...	9	-	9
1959	...	4	1	5
1960	...	13	2	15
1961	...	9	1	10
1962	...	7	3	10
1963	...	6	1	7
1964	...	5	1	6
1965	...	10	1	11
1966	...	8	2	10
1967	...	7	2	9
1968	...	5	3	8
1969	...	9	3	12
1970	...	6	-	6
1971	...	14	2	16

The total number of Cancer deaths, and the percentage of Cancer deaths to total deaths, since 1950, are shown in the following table :-

Year		<u>Total No. of Deaths</u>	<u>--- Cancer Deaths ---</u>			<u>Percentage of Cancer Deaths</u>
			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>to Total Deaths</u>
1950	...	217	15	11	26	11.9%
1951	...	241	14	12	26	10.7%
1952	...	198	9	17	26	13.1%
1953	...	314	22	27	49	15.6%
1954	...	227	15	23	38	16.7%
1955	...	227	15	15	30	13.2%
1956	...	220	23	17	40	18.1%
1957	...	227	18	11	29	12.7%
1958	...	223	24	27	51	22.8%
1959	...	214	17	18	35	16.3%
1960	...	233	24	20	44	18.8%
1961	...	284	26	19	45	15.8%
1962	...	228	18	27	45	19.7%
1963	...	235	23	12	35	14.8%
1964	...	252	16	20	36	14.2%
1965	...	269	24	28	52	19.3%
1966	...	269	24	22	46	17.1%
1967	...	194	15	18	33	17.0%
1968	...	259	21	22	43	12.7%
1969	...	219	27	22	49	22.3%
1970	...	210	17	21	38	18.1%
1971	...	252	28	31	59	23.4%

INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1971, arranged in age-groups :-

AGE GROUPS	Dysentery (Bacillary)	Infective Hepatitis	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Scarlet Fever	Tuberculosis			Whooping Cough	TOTAL
						Pulm.	Mening. & C.N.S.	Other		
Under 1 year	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
1 +	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
2 +	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
3 +	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	3	12
4 +	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
5 - 9 years	-	16	7	-	3	-	-	-	2	28
10 - 14 "	1	8	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	11
15 - 19 "	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
20 - 34 "	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
35 - 44 "	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
45 - 64 "	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	1	38	26	1	4	3	-	-	8	81
		*				**				

* Infective Hepatitis : Of the total of 38 cases, 16 were from Council-house Estates, viz.
3 from Forches, 9 from Frankmarsh, and 4 from Zephyr.

** Tuberculosis - Pulm. : Females 36 & 64; Male 66 yrs.

NO cases of DIPHTHERIA have occurred in the Borough for the past 26 years.

YEARLY INCIDENCE OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS SINCE 1950

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Cases of Pulm. T.B.</u>	<u>Case Rate per 1,000 Population</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 Population</u>
1950	9	0.56	2	0.12
1951	18	1.11	7	0.43
1952	12	0.74	3	0.18
1953	8	0.49	2	0.12
1954	4	0.24	Nil	Nil
1955	5	0.31	1	0.06
1956	12	0.76	Nil	Nil
1957	6	0.37	Nil	Nil
1958	11	0.76	1	0.06
1959	13	0.83	1	0.06
1960	8	0.51	1	0.06
1961	3	0.19	1	0.06
1962	3	0.19	Nil	Nil
1963	6	0.37	1	0.06
1964	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1965	1	0.06	Nil	Nil
1966	2	0.12	Nil	Nil
1967	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1968	2	0.11	Nil	Nil
1969	1	0.05	Nil	Nil
1970	1	0.05	Nil	Nil
1971	3	0.17	Nil	Nil

The following table shows the number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Borough register at the beginning and the end of the Year 1971 :-

1971	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total		
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st January	71	33	104	11	15	26	82	48	130
31st December	72	35	107	11	15	26	83	50	133

HOUSING -

During the year, 85 dwelling-houses were built by Barnstaple Corporation, and 54 by Private Enterprise.

Under the Housing Acts, one house was demolished; none were closed.

WATER SUPPLIES -

The water supply to the Borough has, again, been adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality throughout the year.

The water is supplied by The North Devon Water Board. The intake is from two sources : one from the River Yeo at a point some five miles from the town; this water gravitates to the Treatment Works at Pilton, where it is first filtered through sand filter-beds and then chlorinated. The other source of supply is from the Water Board's reservoir at Wistlandpound, Blackmoor Gate. This is also treated by filtration and chlorination.

During the year, 88 samples were submitted by the Board for bacteriological examination. 87 were satisfactory.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT -

I am obliged to the Barnstaple Meteorological Station at The North Devon Athenaeum for the following information regarding local weather statistics :-

Barometer : Highest reading 30.8 ins. on 5th December;
Lowest " 28.6 ins. on 21st January.

Temperature : Maximum : 82° on 8th, 9th & 11th July;
Minimum : 22° on 1st January, & 27th & 29th April.
Mean for Year : 50.7°F.

Rainfall : 34.44 inches (874.9 m.m.)
Average for preceding 10 years : 36.5 inches.
Number of days on which .01 or more inches of rain fell : 132.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION -

Protective immunization and vaccination against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Smallpox and Poliomyelitis are undertaken by the General Practitioners, and at the Child Health & School Clinics.

'MEALS ON WHEELS' -

This service is still run by the W.R.V.S. The meals are prepared in the kitchen of the Adult Training Centre at Hawley, Barnstaple, and the number of meals distributed to the elderly is at least 50 per week.

CARE OF THE AGED -

Where possible, elderly people who are living alone are given every assistance to enable them to remain as long as possible in their own homes. They are visited by Health Visitors, and, in cases of ill health, by the District Nurses. The W.R.V.S. also visit the elderly and assist by doing their shopping, etc.

Two "Darby & Joan Clubs" exist in the Borough: one in the Pilton district, and one at Newport. Both these Clubs are run by the W.R.V.S.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Sec. 47, and AMENDMENT ACT, 1951 -

This Section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons from their own homes to a County Welfare Home. No cases were dealt with under this Section during the year.

MATERNITY CASES -

The North Devon District Hospital (Maternity Unit) at North Road, Pilton, Barnstaple, has 54 beds: 48 general maternity and 6 special care. 1,372 births took place at this Hospital during the year, 311 of these being local cases.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

There is an Infectious Diseases Section at the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford, which serves Barnstaple as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

SMALLPOX -

Liskeard Smallpox Hospital is the "first-line" reception hospital for any Smallpox cases from the Counties of Devon and Cornwall, with Lee Mill Hospital as "second-line" hospital.

The Plymouth Ambulance provides transport for Smallpox cases in these two Counties. The telephone number is : Plymouth (0752) 64101.

THE MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT visits the Borough every fortnight, on alternate Wednesdays, between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. It is situate in the Cattle Market (Holland Street entrance), and is available to the general public (except children under 15 years of age, and expectant mothers), and is also available for cases referred by General Practitioners in the area, thus releasing the X-ray Department at the North Devon Infirmary to cope with other important X-ray work.

JUNIOR TRAINING CENTRE, ABBEYFIELD, BARNSTAPLE -

This Centre provides training facilities for mentally-handicapped children between the ages of 5 and 16.

Hostel accommodation is also provided for children who may live some distance away from the Centre.

ADULT TRAINING CENTRE, HAWLEY, BARNSTAPLE -

This is a Centre for the training of handicapped adults from the whole North Devon area. This, also, has Hostel accommodation.

HOSPITALS -

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in the Borough, serves the area, and provides modern medical and surgical treatment for the residents of the District. There are 122 beds.

The Alexandra Hospital, Barnstaple, has 113 beds. Here there is a Chronic Sick section; also two Wards are set aside as an Annexe to the North Devon Infirmary, and post-operative and recovery patients are transferred there as soon as possible.

The North Devon District Hospital (Maternity Unit), previously mentioned on Page 13, is situated in the Borough, and serves the whole area.

AMBULANCE SERVICES -

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon County Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the

St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and the district around, and the Headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple, telephone : Barnstaple 5321. The staff consists of four paid members (full-time), 20 men volunteers, and 14 volunteer nurses.

The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the Hospital by the Doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the Ambulance is not necessary.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME -

There are 5 District Nurse/Midwives practising in the Borough.

LABORATORIES -

The Public Health Laboratory, of which Dr. B. Moore is the Director, is situated at Church Lane, Heavitree, Exeter. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all Doctors.

Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are regularly carried out at this Exeter laboratory.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and technical staff, to meet the needs of the whole of the North Devon area.

The Blood Bank is also situated at this local Laboratory.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES -

V.D. Clinic : This is held at the North Devon Infirmary (Casualty Outpatients' Department) :-

Sessions

<u>Mondays</u>	:	Females	4.30 - 5.30 p.m.,
		Males	5.30 - 6.30 p.m.,
<u>Thursdays</u>	:	Females	9.30 - 10.30 a.m.,
		Males	10.30 a.m. - 12 noon.

The following table shows the local trend in the incidence of Venereal Diseases treated at the North Devon Infirmary over the past six years :-

	<u>Gonorrhoea</u>		<u>Syphilis</u>		<u>Non-Specific Urethritis</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1966	15	10	2	3	44	10
1967	14	5	2	2	40	14
1968	22	8	-	-	47	21
1969	13	1	1	2	60	27
1970	23	8	2	1	61	24
1971	41	15	-	2	83	48

Chest Clinic : held at the North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annexe :-

Sessions

Tuesdays, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. : Clinic & X-ray Examinations.

Infant Welfare Clinics : These Clinics are now held at the General Practitioners' local surgeries, instead of at the Alexandra Road Clinic as previously.

Sessions vary according to the individual surgery with which the patient is registered.

In addition to the above, Child Welfare Clinics are also held at :

St. Paul's Church Hall, Sticklepath, Barnstaple,

on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month, from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Dental Clinic : held at the Alexandra Road Clinic, for expectant mothers, school children, and children under 5 years.

Eye Clinic : held at the Alexandra Road Clinic every 2nd Friday of each month, for school children, and children under 5 years.

Speech Therapy Clinic : held at the Alexandra Road Clinic each Wednesday (all day) and Thursday mornings.

Hearing Clinic : This is held at the Alexandra Road Clinic on the 4th Tuesday of the month, between 9.30 a.m. and 12 noon, for school children and children under 5 years.

A Specialist Hearing Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary on Fridays, between 2 - 4 p.m. for children under 5 years and school children.

Ante-natal Clinic : at the Alexandra Road Clinic, held by the District Nurses and Health Visitors, every Monday afternoon, 2.30 - 3.30. The Physiotherapist from the Hospital is also in attendance.

Family Planning Clinic : This Clinic is run by the Exeter District Women's Welfare Association, and is held on the following days, by appointment, at 113 Boutport Street, Barnstaple. (A lady Doctor is in attendance.) :-

1st Monday of each month	:	2 p.m.	-	7 p.m.,
2nd " " " "	:	10 a.m.	-	2 p.m.,
3rd " " " "	:	5.30 p.m.	-	8 p.m.

Chiropody Service : This service operates at the Alexandra Road Clinic on certain Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The W.R.V.S. arrange the rotas, and assist the Chiropodists generally. The charge is 20p per treatment.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to present herewith my 21st Report on the work of your Public Health Inspectors, this for the Year 1971.

There was no change in the personnel of the Department, the same team having now done duty together since the year 1952, a team that knew Azes Lane and Corser Street in the days of their too-long occupation, and many other streets that no Barnstaple-born person under 16 years has ever seen. History is not made only on bloody fields and "Peace hath her victories.....".

In a Borough where a third of the dwelling-houses are Corporate properties, and at least three quarters of the remainder are owner-occupied, the scope left for work under the Housing Acts (Improvement Grants not being a responsibility of the Department) is small indeed. Very few cases were found where repairs were not carried out after an informal approach. One only demolition was called for, and an ingenious informal method of 'suspended Closing Orders' led to every house so considered by the Committee being rendered fit for habitation.

One row of 22 cottages in near-rural location which had escaped formal action and possible demolition on several almost historic (hysteric?) occasions was given a seemingly permanent reprieve by extension of the Borough sewerage system to overcome their worst feature. Such a scheme was disapproved in the year 1956; there is an adage that those who live longest will see most, and the dogged patience of those who persisted in nature's oldest fertilisation system at Raleigh will yet be rewarded by what could have been theirs 15 years earlier, a water-carriage system of drainage.

Two other terraces of much more modern building that had enjoyed only septic tank drainage since their erection, and were divided by a railway cutting from the Borough sewerage system, were connected to main drainage by reason of a joint scheme with the Rural District Council. Smaller schemes for two other areas still on septic tank drainage were under way during the year. One other such surviving tank was, surprisingly, discovered in a part of the Borough where every other house had been on main drainage for decades. It was abolished, and the necessary connection made to the sewer available. So, during the year under review, at least 35 houses (including the preparatory schemes referred to) were brought onto main drainage from septic tanks or cruder forms of disposal.

The Public Abattoir at Pottington was, in its second full year of use, a place of good report that again enjoyed a licence to export carcasses to E. E. C. countries, such licences only granted after stringent inspection by Inspectors from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. After years of enduring the shortcomings of the ancient monument in Tuly Street, the

Borough is fortunate in having a showplace of its kind, indeed the F. M. C. management have mounted several exhibitions there of special interest to breeders, butchers, students of agriculture and veterinary medicine, at which your staff have played a part on each occasion. Almost inevitable is the report that the original building was not large enough for the throughput forthcoming, and during the year plans were in preparation for extensions on a large scale, chiefly to lairage and to cold storage accommodation. The figures for the year appear in the tables given later in this Report. As always, they have little relation to the meat consumed in Barnstaple and district : such numbers of food animals would satisfy the needs of many such towns. Relations with the F. M. C. and its local management staff continued to be excellent in every respect. It is, surely, the happiest method to operate a municipal abattoir in this way, with experts in charge of its functions, and the Local Authority exercising the statutory duties of inspection and supervision of hygiene.

Refuse Collection kept pace with the demands of a growing and expanding Barnstaple with the acquisition of the largest vehicle yet ordered. The balance of older, narrow streets against the new estates forbids the use of the very large vehicles now available, but our newest vehicle can collect 45 cubic yards of compressed refuse in its totally-enclosed body, where a few years ago 11 cubic yards of loose refuse was the largest load possible. The fact that yesterday's wonder is today's commonplace is seen in the continued use of the plastic bin-liner system. Surely, nobody could contemplate a return to the day of the heavy, noisy, often dirty, sometimes dangerously-damaged dustbin of 1969 vintage, certainly not the refuse collectors, few occupiers of dwellings, and surely fewer ratepayers as the system continued to prove itself.

Refuse Disposal, in its 17th year at Seven Brethren Bank, reduced still further the gap that once seemed so great between the new industrial area and the limit of the tipping area available. It was estimated that a further 4 - 5 years' space remained at the end of the year, not including several acres still reserved for possible trunk road development. During the year, as a result of generally diminishing tipping space in North Devon, the County Council, whose responsibility this service will be in 1974, instructed a firm of Consultant Engineers to prepare a feasibility report on the future of refuse disposal in the area as a whole. The survey was commenced towards the end of the year.

In late 1971 the Devon County Council's Management Studies Team were conducting a form of time and motion study on the service, with a view to bringing in an Incentive Bonus Scheme for its workers. They were not the first observers to note how speedily and efficiently this thankless job is done week after week, and they were loud in their praises. It is a real pleasure to join with them and to thank all engaged in refuse collection and disposal for another year of work well done.

Food preparing and retailing premises were visited regularly: very few and minor infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found, requiring only informal action. During the year, 15 cases of contamination of food by foreign objects were reported to the Department, and these were referred to the Sampling Officer of the Devon County Council for

further investigation and action. In one case only was legal action taken, the case awaiting its hearing at the end of the year. In general food hygiene it is hoped and believed that much useful work is done in fairly regular visits (invited) to talk to groups of students and others, and these were, again, a feature of 1971.

Rodent and pest control had not been a full-time appointment for many years, but did assume a greater role than could be played by the part-time Pensioner employed for this purpose. Accordingly, in 1971 a contract was entered into with a firm of Specialists in all aspects of pest control. The same firm also carried out the annual treatment of the Borough's sewerage system. All evidence, on the ground and below, was that the rat is well contained, but that the Warfarin-resistant mouse is a major problem, especially in the older parts of the town where so many food premises are to be found. It was well that a firm of Specialists with laboratory and technical facilities were entrusted with this disinfection service.

Nuisance from noise or atmospheric pollution called for many visits to the relatively few factories or premises involved. One example of each class was extensively reported on to Committees during the year, and grateful reference is made to the co-operation of H. M. Alkali Inspectorate whose advice led to a much-appreciated reduction of emission of fumes in one case. Noise nuisance is, perhaps, the most delicate subject we now handle, when what is a murmur at noon can be a menace at midnight, and the sensitivity of adjoining householders is varied.

The appended tables are the dry facts of what is, essentially, a very human occupation. The Public Health Department of all Local Government bodies is nearest to people and their problems.

It is again a pleasure to say what loyal co-operation has been forthcoming from all colleagues in this and other Departments, and to thank them for their work and assistance at all times. To the members of the Council I proffer apologies for the late appearance of this Report, and thank them for their forbearance and courteous co-operation during the year.

Yours respectfully,

W. RODGERS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

(1) MEAT INSPECTION -

Animals slaughtered and inspected were as follows :-

Beasts	...	7,242
Calves	...	135
Sheep	...	54,372
Pigs	...	<u>21,440</u>
		<u>83,189</u>

Meat condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

51 tons 4 cwts. 1 qr. 14 lbs.

Whole carcasses condemned include the following :-

Beasts	...	45
Calves	...	29
Sheep	...	357
Pigs	...	<u>228</u>
		<u>659</u>

Incidence of Tuberculosis in Cows was NIL.

Examination for Cysticercus Bovis (the embryo form of a tapeworm infesting man) continued. One case only was found, a decrease of 5 on the previous year. The incidence of infection was 0.01%.

The Public Abattoir at Pottington Industrial Estate, Barnstaple, is the only Slaughterhouse licensed in the Borough.

16 Licences were issued to Slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

The following table is in the form prescribed for Annual Reports by the Department of Health & Social Security :-

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	5,960	1,282	135	54,372	21,440	Nil
Number inspected	5,960	1,282	135	54,372	21,440	Nil
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI -</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	9	36	29	357	228	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...	2,337	1,054	Nil	7,257	3,772	Nil
% of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. & Cysticerci ...	39.4%	85.0%	21.5%	14.0%	18.7%	Nil
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY -</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	53	Nil
% of number inspected affected with T.B. ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.24%	Nil
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS -</u>						
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(2) FOOD PREMISES -

- (a) The following is a list of Food Premises in the Borough.
(Where, as often applies, a Food Shop deals in more than one of the specified groups of commodities, the premises have been classified according to the predominating type of business.)

Bread & Cakes	...	...	...	18
Cafes & Restaurants	...	...	...	22
Cooked Meats, etc.	...	...	...	3
Dairies	...	...	...	15
Fish (wet)	...	...	...	6
Fish & Chips	...	...	...	8
Fruit & Vegetables	...	...	...	27
Groceries & Provisions	...	...	...	64
Ice Cream	...	...	...	1
Meat	...	...	...	26
Mineral Water Factories	...	...	...	2
Public Houses & Hotels	...	...	...	39
Sweets & Confectionery	...	...	...	110
Wines & Spirits (Off-Licences)	...	...	...	4
				<u>345</u>

- (b) Food & Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16.

140 premises are registered under this Act, viz. 51 for the Preparation of Processed Foods, and 89 for the Sale of Ice Cream.

- (c) Food inspected and surrendered as unfit for human consumption was as follows :-

<u>TINNED FOODS</u>					<u>tons</u>	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>grs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>oz.</u>
Fish	...	41	tings	)					
Fruit	...	1,275	"	)					
Fruit Juice	..	52	"	)					
Fruit Pie Filling	50	"	)						
Jams, Conserves	3	"	)						
Meat	...	143	"	)					
Meat Pies	...	2	"	)					
Milk	...	40	"	)					
Milk Puddings	62	"	)						
Ravioli	...	1	"	)					
Soups	...	141	"	)					
Spaghetti	...	22	"	)					
Sponge Puddings	2	"	)						
Stew (Irish)	29	"	)						
Vegetables	...	544	"	)					
<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>2,407</u>	" weight		<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1½</u>

(2) (c) continued from previous page.

<u>OTHER FOODS</u>			<u>tons</u>	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>oz.</u>
Almonds (Ground)	...	(7 pkts.)				1	12
Bacon	...					6	0
Beefburgers	...					2	0
Beetroot	...					14	0
Beetroot (Pickled)	...	(23 jars)			1	2	0
Beverages (various)	...	(5 jars)				6	8
Biscuits	...	(17 pkts.)				7	14½
Bread	...					1	12
Breakfast Cereals (various)		(87 pkts)			2	6	8
Butter	...					3	8
Cake Mix	...	(12 pkts.)				6	0
Carrots	...				3	0	0
Cheese	...					9	8
Cherries (Glacé)	...	(2 cartons)					8
Chicken	...	(73)		2	0	8	4
Coconut	...	(2 pkts.)				1	0
Coffee	...	(24 botts.)				12	0
Coffee (Instant)	...	(1 jar)					8
Cooking Oil	...	(5 botts.)				10	0
Cornflour	...	(1 pkt.)					15
Corn-on-the-Cob	...						8
Cranberries	...	(2 pkts.)				1	0
Cranberry Sauce	...	(2 jars)				1	8
Dessert Creams	...	(7 pkts.)				1	12
Dripping	...					8	0
Ducks	...	(8)			1	3	0
Fish (wet)	...			1	3	5	0
Fruit (Dried)	...	(5 pkts.)				4	0
Fruit Juice, Squash	..	(66 botts.)		1	0	13	12
Jams, Conserves	...	(26 jars)				22	14
Jellies	...	(1 pkt.)					4
Lemon Pie Filling	...	(2 pkts.)				1	0
Macaroni	...	(3 pkts.)				1	8
Meat (excl. Slaughterhouse)					3	3	8
Meat (cooked joints, opened tins, etc.)					3	3	0
Meat & Potato Pie	...					1	0
Mint Sauce	...	(1 bott.)					4
Mousse	...	(72 ctns.)				9	0
Mustard	...	(1 tin)					4
Pastry Mix	...	(2 pkts.)				1	4
Peanut Butter	...	(2 jars)				2	0
Peas	...	(3 pkts.)				1	4
Peel (Candied)	...	(8 pkts.)				2	6
Pickles	...	(5 jars)				9	8
Potato (Instant)	...	(1 pkt.)					4
Rice	...					7	0
Salt	...	(11 pkts.)				25	0
Sauce	...	(11 botts.)				17	0

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(2) (c) continued from previous page.

		<u>tons</u>	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>oz.</u>
Scampi	... (6 pkts.)				3	0
Smoked Salmon Slices						8
Spices (various)	... (4 drums)				1	0
Suet	... (1 pkt.)				1	0
Sweets, Chocolates	...				6	0
Tea	... (6 boxes)				18	0
Teacakes	... (1 pkt.)					6
Turkey	... (1)				13	6
Vermicelli	... (2 pkts.)				1	0
Vinegar	... (11 botts.)				11	0
<u>TOTAL</u>	...	-	10	2	21	15½
<u>Combined weights of Tinned and</u>						
<u>Other Foods condemned</u> ...						
		2	0	3	1	1

N.B. In addition to the above, also condemned were the total contents of 7 Frozen Food Cabinets, due to breakdown in refrigeration. Weight of these foods was not ascertainable.

(3) ICE CREAM -

30 samples of Ice Cream were taken for bacteriological examination, with the following results :-

PRODUCER	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	<u>Total</u>
'A'	12	1	1	-	14
'B'	9	6	-	-	15
'C'	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	22	7	1	-	30

(4) MILK & DAIRIES -

The number of Producer-Retailers in the Borough is now 5, and from these, 16 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter for the detection of Brucella Abortus. All were negative.

(5) DISINFECTION -

53 Disinfections were carried out, viz. Library Books which had been in contact with cases of infectious diseases.

(6) RODENT DISINFESTATION -

167 premises were treated for rodents, i.e. 83 for rats and 84 for mice. Sewer treatment was also carried out during the year, when 197 manhole entrances were treated.

(7) GENERAL DISINFESTATION -

61 premises were treated for other pests, as follows :-

Cockroaches	...	1
Fleas	...	18
Flies, Mosquitoes	...	4
Wasps' Nests	...	38

(8) PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928 -

63 Storage Licences were granted under the above Act, viz :-

Petroleum Spirit only	...	45
Petroleum Spirit & Petroleum Mixtures	...	6
Petroleum Mixtures only	...	12

The quantities stored were as follows :-

Petroleum Spirit	...	236,550 gallons
Petroleum Mixtures	...	3,105 "

Fees received by the Corporation in respect of such Licences amounted to £222.

(9) EXPLOSIVES ACTS, 1875 & 1923 -

The number of Premises Registered for the Storage of Mixed Explosives (i.e. fireworks, cartridges, etc.) was 17, and the fees received were £10. 63p.

(10) ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963 -

One establishment in the Borough was licensed under this Act.

(11) PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951, S.1 -

Two Pet Shops Licences were renewed for the year 1971.

(12) OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963 -

Report on Registrations, Inspections, etc. during the Year
1971 :-

TABLE 'A'

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises (1)	Number of premises newly registered during the year (2)	Total No. of Regist. Premises at end of year (3)	Number of premises receiving one or more gen. inspections during the year (4)
Offices	9	158	62
Retail Shops	1	229	165
Wholesale Shops,) Warehouses)	1	24	17
Catering Estab-) lishments open to) the Public;) Canteens)	2	25	18
Fuel Storage) Depots)	-	6	4
TOTALS	13	442	226

TABLE 'B'

Number of visits of all kinds (including general
inspections) to Registered Premises 295

(12) (continued)

TABLE 'C'

ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN
REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons employed
Offices	898
Retail Shops	1,544
Wholesale Departments; Warehouses	203
Catering Establishments open to Public	218
Canteens	9
Fuel Storage Depots	33
<u>TOTAL</u> :	<u>2,915</u>
Total Males	1,292
Total Females	1,623

(13) SALVAGE -

The following materials were salvaged during refuse collection and disposal during the financial year 1971/72 :-

Rags (miscellaneous) : 16 cwts. 2 qrs. 1 lb... £9. 99p.

(14) FACTORIES ACT, 1961 -

The following tables show Inspections, etc. carried out during the year :-

(a) INSPECTIONS :

Premises	Number on Register	Inspect- ions	No. of Written Notices	Occup. Prosecu- ted
1. Factories in which S. 1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	11	3	-	-
2. Factories not incl. in (1) in which S.7 is enforced by L.A.	166	104	-	-
3. Other Premises in which S.7 is enforced by L.A. (excl. Outworkers' Premises)	15	6	1	-
TOTAL ...	192	113	1	-

(14) (b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	to H.M. Inspect.	by H.M. Inspect.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	2	2	-	2	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	4	-	3	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	3	-	1	-
TOTAL ...	15	14	-	6	-

(14) (c) OUTWORK :

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Out-workers in Aug. list (S.133, (1) (c))	No. of cases of default in sending lists	No. of prosecutions for failure to send lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel (making, etc.)	19	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, Lace Curtains, Nets	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	19	-	-	-	-	-

(15) THE FOLLOWING IS A DETAILED LIST OF PUBLIC HEALTH WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1971 :-

Nature of Works Done	P.H. Acts	Hsng. Acts	F. & D. Act	Fact. Acts	O.S. & R.P. Act
New sets of house drains laid	2	-	-	-	-
Drains repaired	20	-	-	-	-
Drains cleared	34	-	-	-	-
Smoke & water tests	4	-	-	-	-
New inspection chambers built	7	-	-	-	-
Fresh air inlets provided	1	-	-	-	-
New W.C. pans provided	1	-	-	-	-
W.Cs. repaired	-	-	4	-	-
Roofs repaired or renewed	6	-	-	-	-
Ceilings repaired	-	-	5	-	-
Guttering repaired or renewed	12	-	-	-	-
Walls repaired	-	-	2	-	-
Floors repaired or renewed	-	-	3	-	-
Dampness remedied	6	-	-	-	-
Lighting improved	-	-	5	-	-
Ventilation improved	-	-	2	-	-
Rooms cleansed	-	-	58	-	-
Doors cleansed	-	-	8	-	-
Food protected from contamination)	-	-	40	-	-
Articles of clothing cleansed	-	-	3	-	-
Washing facilities provided	-	-	10	-	-
Bins provided	-	-	12	-	-
Offensive accumulations removed	2	-	-	-	-
Vermin and other pests eradicated)	61	-	-	-	-
Premises where nuisances abated	90	-	-	-	-
Houses demolished	-	1	-	-	-
Houses closed	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	6	-	118

(16) SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC. -

Total visits made	...	...	...	...	3,054
Inspections - Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	550
" - " " " (re-visits)	...	...	...	...	237
" - Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	31
" - " " (re-visits)	...	...	...	...	36
Visits to Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	442
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	36
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	191
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	305
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	54
Milk Vehicles (Including Sampling)	...	...	...	...	33
Dairies	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	36
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	3
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	...	295
Infectious Diseases Investigations	...	...	...	...	2
Factories	...	...	...	...	107
Caravans	...	...	...	...	6
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	17
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	...	232
Petroleum Storage	...	...	...	...	23
Miscellaneous Letters written	...	...	...	...	64
Statutory Notices - Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	Nil
" " - Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	1
Informal Notices - Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	52
" " - " " " (secondary)	...	...	...	...	32
Verbal Notices	...	...	...	...	177

